



Massachusetts Urban & Community Forestry Program

# The Citizen Forester

DECEMBER 2013

## UMass Urban Forestry: Coming Soon to a Community Near You

By Rick Harper

With more than one million street trees, Massachusetts currently features a relatively large proportion of canopy cover in its three largest cities (Boston 29%, Worcester 37%, and Springfield 33%), with plans to increase urban tree populations and existing canopy cover through various greening and urban tree-planting initiatives. The value of trees planted in residential settings has been well-documented, and citizens are often passionate about maintaining urban trees and community green space. We are all familiar, however, with the reality that community trees are frequently presented with very challenging growing conditions. Thus, those who manage these trees – such as the community Tree Warden – are regularly presented with challenging situations in their profession.

As we all know, a Tree Warden – a **“Warden”** being a common title for natural resource officials in the late 1800s – is someone who is in charge of the stewardship of shade trees along the public way. Still in effect today under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Sections 1 and 106 have mandated, since 1899, that all cities and towns in the Commonwealth have a Tree Warden. A large part of the reasoning behind the establishment of the new Urban & Community Extension Assistant Pro-

fessor position here at the University of Massachusetts has been to assist with the management of the community forests throughout the Commonwealth by working directly with these local Tree Wardens.

Over the past several months, numerous community Tree Wardens have taken the time to meet with me one-on-one as I have started the process of visiting the **“community forests”** throughout Massachusetts. During these visits, I have been given tours and listened to insights, ideas, chal-

lenges and successes of individual Tree Wardens. These visitations have helped to give a first-hand perspective on the day-to-day activities of a Tree Warden. They have also helped to lay the foundation for a better understanding of the typical obstacles that Tree Wardens contend with and specific areas where the resources of UMass and DCR may best be used to help assist them.

Here are some noteworthy insights and observations gleaned from having visited over a dozen communities this fall:

**Diversity** – This word can mean many things, but the position, scope, and expectations of a Tree Warden can vary tremendously from community to community. Tree Wardens range from elected or appointed volunteers who may receive a modest annual stipend, to a paid employee who works as part of a team of full-time staff, many of whom may be dedicated to the care of the **community’s trees and green spaces**.

**Balance** – Tree Wardens are often required to interface with private residents, volunteer committee members, professional contractors, municipal officials, and elected **politicians...sometimes all in the same conversation!** Achieving this balance as someone who can function as an **“honest broker”** between all of these parties and



The majestic **“Station Oak”** (*Quercus rubra*) located next to the post office in Wellesley.

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### Up Ahead:

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## Urban Forestry Outreach (Continued)



An urban crabapple (*Malus* spp.) specimen located next to the Town Hall in Watertown.

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serve as the local, informed tree expert is no small task.

Professionalism – Tree Wardens are dedicated professionals who genuinely care about the well-being of the trees in their communities. They work hard, putting in long hours and are often required to **“get the job done” with limited** resources. Many

Tree Wardens share equipment and employee resources with other departments in their municipality in an effort to stretch their budgets and meet deadlines.

Looking back on these community visitations, a pattern has begun to emerge regarding areas where Tree Wardens could use some support and assistance. Some of these include:

1. Assistance either performing an urban forest inventory or updating an existing inventory.
2. Help obtaining/maintaining professional accreditations (i.e. arborist certifications) with limited time and budgets.
3. Further networking opportunities between less experienced Tree Wardens and their veteran counterparts in other communities.
4. Learning more about dealing with different groups with diverse objectives and opinions.
5. Resources to increase urban tree species diversity. Since nearly 50% of the urban tree populations in Massachusetts are maples (*Acer* spp.), this objective is all the more critical with pests like Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) (ALB) threatening maples and other deciduous trees.

The Urban Forest Extension Program at UMass looks forward to continuing these community visitations throughout the state in the coming year, to help build an infrastructure to assist with these – and other – specific

needs. After all, supporting the health and well-being of our community forests in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may best be done by supporting those professionals active on the front lines: the community Tree Wardens.

Rick Harper serves as Extension Assistant Professor of Urban & Community Forestry, UMass Department of Environmental Conservation, Amherst, and is also an ISA Board-Certified Master Arborist.

## Picks and Shovels

Mass. General Laws, Chapter 41

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleVII/Chapter41>

Mass. General Laws, Chapter 87

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXIV/Chapter87>

DCR Urban and Community Forestry Community Status Map

<http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dcr/forestry/forestry23.html>

(Have an update to your community status? Email [Mollie Freilicher](mailto:Mollie.Freilicher@state.ma.us))

**Mass Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association**

[www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org)



Urban canopy cover from mature street trees in Brookline.



# Species Spotlight—Pin oak, *Quercus palustris*

By Mollie Freilicher  
MA-DCR  
Community Action Forester



While we can now find pin oak in many major cities in the United States, it is native to a swath of land from southern Ontario, east to Vermont and Massachusetts, south to North Carolina, and west to Iowa. It is hardy in zones four to eight and has been widely transplanted due to its form and its fibrous root system that makes it easy to transplant. Pin oak can reach heights of 60 to 70 feet with a spread of 25 to 40 feet. In the wild, it can grow much larger. In its

native habitat, pin oak thrives in poorly drained, wet soils and is often found on bottomlands. Compared with other oaks, it is a relatively fast grower. The Latin “*palustris*” means “swampy.”

The habit of pin oak is pyramidal and it is one of those **trees I learned in class as a “Mass Pike tree” because you** can identify it at 65 miles an hour as you go by on the highway. Its branching pattern is what makes it so quick to identify. The lower branches are pendulous. The mid-height branches are somewhat horizontal, and the top branches are upright. In urban settings, where pin oak is often planted as a park and street tree, town and city foresters will often prune the lower branches, diminishing that characteristic a bit, but the distinct branching pattern further up the tree will still be apparent.

Like all oaks, pin oak is alternate. Its leaves are simple and elliptic, three to six inches long and almost as wide. It has five to seven acuminate lobes, with a strong U-shapes sinus (the area between lobes). On the underside of the leaf, along the midvein, are tufts of hair. In spring and summer, the leaf color is shiny, dark green above and lighter



below. In the fall, leaves of pin oak turn to bronze, brown, or red—the color can vary.

Buds of pin oak are imbricate, conical, 1/4-inch long, and, as in other oaks, the terminal bud is not a single bud, but a cluster. Bark of pin oak is gray-brown and starts smooth and becomes more furrowed with age. The fruit is solitary or clustered, 1/2-inch high to 2/3 to 3/4-inch wide, with a cap like a saucer.

Pin oak is adaptable to many urban conditions and will do well in moist, acid, well-drained soil. It does not do well with high pH and can suffer from iron chlorosis in soils where the pH is above six.

Urban forest managers should ensure that they select a site that can accommodate the large mature size of pin oak. Pin oak is a great tree for the landscape and is widely available in the nursery trade. It is one of several native oaks that can enhance yards, parks, and streetsides. As with any planting, managers should also consider diversity, as oaks are common trees in the landscape.



Photos: Form: UConn Plant Database; Fruit: University of Kentucky; Leaf Twig, and bark: Virginia Tech

# Growing Greener—in Petersham

By Mollie Freilicher  
MA-DCR  
Community Action Forester



On October 25-26, 35 municipal foresters, landscapers, tree and town forest board members, activists, and interested citizens from across the state (and even New Hampshire!) gathered at the Fisher Museum of Harvard Forest to **attend DCR's annual Tree Steward Training**. The program consisted of a mix of indoor and outdoor sessions on topics from tree biology, i-Tree, soil, utility and municipal arboriculture, pruning, planting, and tree ID. On Friday,

the day started off with introductions and a brief overview of tree biology and challenges of the urban environment. Next, the group heard from David Lefcourt, City Arborist for Cambridge, and learned about some of the challenges facing municipal arborists. David also shared some of the innovative programs that Cambridge has implemented, including their Junior Forester program and their Tree Ambassador initiative. Rick Harper, UMass Extension Assistant Professor of Urban and Community Forestry, brought the group outside to talk about soil and demonstrate some of the tools that can help with site assessments, including a soil penetrometer and a golf course hole cutter. Participants got to try out some of



the tools and conduct soil assessments behind the museum. David Bloniarz provided an overview of i-Tree and demonstrated some of the tools, including [i-Tree Design](#) and [i-Tree Streets](#). Calvin

Layton, Senior Arborist for Western Massachusetts Electric Company (a division of Northeast Utilities), wrapped up the afternoon with a session on utility arboriculture, demonstrating the challenges facing utilities and the balance between maintaining trees and keeping the lights on. The workshop ended at 4:30 p.m. and folks reconvened at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and networking before retiring to the Fisher House for the night.

## Saturday's program

began bright and early with a hearty breakfast and then Tree Identification from DCR Service Forester Joe Perry.

## Joe got everyone's

circulation going with a quick lesson

on dichotomous keys outside in the chilly morning air. Back inside, Joe covered identification tips for many of our native trees and provided ID skills that participants could take into the urban forest. Melissa LeVangie, USDA Tree Climber and owner of Trees New England, really perked the group up with pruning and gave an overview of tools and safety equipment and then took the group around the museum grounds and discussed pruning options and needs for different trees and shrubs. It was tough to get everyone back inside, but we had a quick session on some resources that DCR Urban and Community Forestry can provide communities and groups. As

a result of feedback last year, this year we included an open discussion session where everyone could share ideas and find out how other communities tackle issues and overcome

challenges. Utility arboriculture was a big topic as well as municipal tree nurseries. The day ended with the planting of a sugar maple at a new Harvard Forest site by the Petersham Curling Club where participants revisited site selection from the day before and planted the tree.



**We're looking forward to next year and hope to see you there!**

From top (L-R) Joe Perry teaching tree ID; Rick Harper shows a nursery tree root mass to the group; Melissa LeVangie demonstrates pruning options for trees and shrubs.

# Growing on Trees

## DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant

Eligible groups include all units of local government and nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations. Local tree departments and citizen tree groups are specifically encouraged to apply. Deadlines are May 1 and November 1.

### What Can We Apply for under an Urban Forestry Grant?

This grant program seeks to fund projects that will result in sustained improvements in local capacity for excellent urban and community forestry management in six key areas. For more details on these areas, read the

full [grant application packet](#) .

- Building and Strengthening Citizen Advocacy and Action Organizations
- Developing and Adopting Tree and Forest Ordinances and Policies
- Securing or Training Professional Staff
- Developing and Implementing Urban Forestry Management Plan
- Attaining a Tree City USA Award
- Completing Strategic Community Tree Plantings and "Heritage" Tree Care Projects
- Other Projects: We may consider some well-conceived and executed projects which result in sustained improvements to urban and community forestry management in other areas.

### How Much Can We Apply for under an Urban Forestry Grant?

Grant awards range from \$1,000 to \$30,000. Applicants should apply for the amount of challenge funds that their projects require. Larger communities are likely to be more competitive for larger grant amounts. Remember all grants must be matched 50-50 by local funds or in-kind contributions. For requirements for Environmental Justice applicants, contact Mollie Freilicher.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/forestry-and-fire-control/urban-and-community-forestry-challenge-grants.html> or contact [Mollie Freilicher](#), 413-577-2966.

For more grants, check out the [July 2013](#) issue of *The Citizen Forester*.

department of Conservation and Recreation

## Brookline Street Tree Inventory

In 1994, David Bloniarz and staff from UMass Amherst, the Arnold Arboretum, and the Town of Brookline trained over 100 volunteers to identify the species and condition of about 11,000 street trees. Location, diameter at breast Height (DBH), and other data were recorded and eventually entered into a Geographic Information System to be used to manage care and replacement to the present (2013).

Watch this video of how Brookline conducted its 1994 volunteer street tree inventory.

(8 minutes) YouTube at <http://youtu.be/suwBfhtmpmc>

View the street tree maps that resulted from the inventory here: <http://tinyurl.com/qgw8dq7>

## What's Happening on The Grove?

The Grove is an advertising-free, networking website that is a partnership between the USDA-Forest Service and the Georgia Urban Forest Council. Sign up for free and [join the Massachusetts Grove](#) and read about and post information on tree planting and urban forestry activities in your community. Share pictures or stories from events, network with other tree advocates, post information for an upcoming project, recruit volunteers, and learn about urban forestry activities in your state and around the country by joining The Grove.

Recently on the Grove:

[HOW HAVE YOU USED ROOT PRUNING?](#)

[BONNIE APPLETON MEMORIAL FUND](#)

[WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE UNDERSTORY/SMALL TREE?](#)

[STREET TREES ON FACEBOOK](#)

[MUNICIPAL FORESTRY INSTITUTE--SIGN UP TODAY!](#)

Sign up for the Massachusetts Grove:

[www.massachusettsgrove.org](http://www.massachusettsgrove.org)

We do our best to ensure that listings are accurate, but please check with program organizers for the most up-to-date information.



# Growing on Trees

## Mass Tree Wardens' and Foresters Association 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference

Tuesday, January 14 - Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, MA

Register and learn more at [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org).

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 7:45-8:30 am   | Registration and Coffee   |
| 8:30-8:45 am   | Opening Session—Annual Meeting  |
| 8:45-9:15 am   | State DCR Updates: Urban Forestry, Forest Health, and ALB<br><i>Mollie Freilicher, Ken Gooch, and Julie Coop</i> , Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. |
| 9:15-10:00 am  | Urban Street Tree Selection<br><i>Andrew Hillman</i> , Davey Resource Group   |
| 10:00-10:15 am | Updates on Chapter 87 Changes<br><i>Marc Welch</i> , City of Newton, and <i>Tom Brady</i> , Town of Brookline   |
| 10:15-11:00 am | Break with Exhibitors   |
| 11:00-11:50 am | Woody Plant Disease Update: Emerging and Interesting Pathogens (CEU)<br><i>Nicholas Brazee, Ph.D.</i> , UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab                                |
| 12:00-1:15 pm  | Luncheon—Banquet and Annual Meeting conclusion  |
| 1:30-3:00 pm   | KEYNOTE SPEAKER<br><i>Nina Bassuk, Ph.D.</i> – Creating Great Sites for Great Trees in our Cities   |
| 3:00-3:30 pm   | Break with Exhibitors   |
| 3:30-4:20 pm   | Climate Change and Its Implications for New England Forests<br><i>Bethany Bradley, Ph.D.</i> , UMass Department of Environmental Conservation                               |
| 4:20-4:30 pm   | Wrap-up—Door Prizes   |
| 4:30-6:00 pm   | Reception in Exhibit Hall Join us for a social get-together, graciously supported by our exhibitors.  |

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 8:30-9:00 am     | Registration and Coffee   |
| 9:00-10:00 am    | Driving Safety Performance Around Overhead Electrical Hazards<br><i>Maurice (Zeke) Dumas</i> , Safety Professional, Western Massachusetts Electric Co.    |
| 10:00-11:00 am   | Break with Exhibitors   |
| 11:00-12:00 noon | UMass Urban Forestry Program: Highlights and Headlines from 2013<br><i>Rick W. Harper</i> , UMass Department of Environmental Conservation                |
| 12:00-1:00pm     | Lunch   |
| 1:00-2:00 pm     | ReGreening Springfield: A Community Experience<br><i>David Bloniarz, Ph.D.</i> , ReGreen Springfield, and <i>Alex Sherman, M.S.</i> , City of Springfield |
| 2:00-3:00 pm     | Preparing for Emerald Ash Borer: Pest Control Strategies (CEU)<br><i>Richard Cowles, Ph.D.</i> , Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)       |
| 3:00 pm          | Door Prizes and Closing   |

# Growing on Trees

## 2014 Municipal Forestry Institute Develops Urban Forestry Leaders

The 2014 Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI) provides the opportunity for high-level training in urban forestry management with a focus on the development of successful community tree programs. Urban forestry professionals who wish to improve their leadership skills in the planning and management of urban forestry programs are encouraged to attend. This intensive, week-long curriculum includes lectures, multimedia presentations, panel discussions, group exercises, and real-life scenarios. The deadline for registration is December 1, 2013, or when full. For more information and registration details, visit the [SMA website](http://www.sma.org). CEUs are available.

## Some Course Selections from the New England Wildflower Society

For the complete schedule and registration information go to: <http://www.newenglandwild.org/learn/adult/by-month/feb/>

### Naked Shrubs

No leaves? No problem! Use a combination of branching patterns, bud and bark characteristics, habitat, persistent fruits, galls, and marcescent leaves to identify shrubs in winter. The program begins with a short session indoors. Then we travel to a nearby site for a close look at 15-20 native New England shrubs plus a couple of non-native invasives. Return indoors for a twig or slide quiz and a cup of something hot. This course serves as a good introduction to shrub identification in winter or a **good review for those who have taken "Native New England Shrubs."** Bring lunch and a hand lens if you have one, and dress for the weather.

Saturday, January 25, 2014, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Belmont, MA

Course Code: fdt1114; Instructor: Roland "Boot" Boutwell, naturalist; Fee: \$20 (Member) / \$25 (Nonmember); Limit: 16 Credit: Field--FB/Adv FB; Cosponsor: MA Audubon, Habitat

### Bringing the Forest Home

Have you ever marveled at the thick moss covering an old stump in the forest, or relaxed next to a trickling stream in the woods? From the lush woodland growth of Pennsylvania sedge, to the rich fragrance of hay-scented fern, the forests of New England inspire us in ways that are hard to put to words. Take inspiration from New England forests and all their diversity to recreate elements of forest scenes in a home garden setting. Empha-

sis is placed on choosing plants that can create rich scenes with high ecological value and low upkeep. Bring a bag lunch.

Tuesday, January 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA

Course Code: hor1525; Instructor: Dan Jaffe, Propagator and Stock Bed Grower, New England Wild Flower Society; Fee: \$33 (Member) / \$40 (Nonmember);

Limit: 30 Credit: Elective-HD/Adv.HD

Cosponsor: Ecological Landscaping Association, MA Audubon Drumlin Farm

### Wetland Shrubs in Winter

Use a combination of branching patterns, bud and bark characteristics, habitat, persistent fruits, galls, and marcescent leaves for the winter identification of wetland shrubs. With a pond, a stream, and a bog, the Garden provides an excellent field site for growth in and around wetlands. We begin with a short session indoors, then head into the Garden for a close look at 15-20 native New England shrubs (plus a non-native invasive or two) that grow in and around wetlands. The class includes some fun and interesting natural history. Bring lunch and a hand lens if you have one and dress for the weather.

Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA

Course Code: wet3020; Instructor: Roland "Boot" Boutwell, naturalist; Fee: \$53 (Member) / \$64 (Nonmember); Limit: 16 Credit: Elective--all certificates; Cosponsor: Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners

### Winter Botany

This course includes a classroom lecture on the taxonomic characteristics of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous and evergreen plants in winter, including hands-on identification of twig and plant specimens, followed by a walk around Garden in the Woods to put your classroom knowledge to work. Learn the significance of macro and micro characteristics, including growth habit, bud morphology, phyllotaxy, leaf and bundle scars, floral patterns, and fruits. Acquire experience with an extensive array of classroom specimens and field identification of woody plants. Bring a hand lens and bag lunch and dress for the weather. Required Text: *Fruit Key & Twig Key to Trees & Shrubs*, by William M. Harlow, Ph.D.

Saturday, February 8, 2014, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA

Course Code: bot3317; Instructor: William Kuriger, Ph.D.; Fee: \$80 (Member) / \$96 (Nonmember)

# Growing on Trees

## From the Arnold Arboretum

For more opportunities, go to: <http://arboretum.harvard.edu/education/adult-education/>

### Pruning in Winter

[Jen Kettell](#), Horticultural Technologist, Arnold Arboretum

2 Sections (select one): Saturday, January 11 or February 1, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Location: [Hunnewell Building](#)

Jen Kettell, an ISA-certified arborist, will explain the reasons for pruning and what to consider when pruning dormant trees, shrubs, and vines. She will demonstrate techniques, give guidelines for determining which plants benefit from winter pruning, and explain how plants heal from pruning wounds. Note: this workshop teaches ornamental pruning techniques; it does not provide information on pruning for fruit production. Fee \$35 member, \$48 nonmember

### Grafting Techniques for Ornamental Trees

[Jack Alexander](#), Plant Propagator, Arnold Arboretum

1 Session: Saturday, February 1, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: [Dana Greenhouse](#)

Grafting is the technique of joining parts of plants in such a manner that they unite and continue their growth as one plant. It is a practical propagation method for the hobbyist, since it does not require special conditions or equipment. You will learn methods of grafting and practice making graft unions, both deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. The plants may include two- or five-needled pines and crabapples. (Simple aftercare will be required until planting out in late spring.) If you own pruning shears or a grafting knife, bring them to class. You must sign an assumption-of-risk-and-release form in order to practice the techniques taught in class. Fee \$90 member, \$120 nonmember

### Pruning Shrubs

[Jen Kettell](#), Horticultural Technologist, Arnold Arboretum

1 Session: Saturday, March 8, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: [Hunnewell Building](#)

Knowing what and when to prune, and how to do so, are important as you manage your home landscape. Learn the basic techniques for pruning ornamental shrubs for optimum health and beauty. Jen Kettell, an ISA-certified arborist, will address topics including pruning cuts and tools; thinning and reducing overgrown plants; and, shaping and encouraging new growth. Fee \$20 member, \$30 nonmember

## From the Berkshire Botanic Garden

### Botany for Gardeners

January 7, 2014, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Education Center at Berkshire Botanical Garden

\$165.00 - To register, call Berkshire Community College: 413-236-2127 or Berkshire Botanical Garden: 413-298-3926

Elisabeth Cary 413.298.3926, x15 [E-mail](#)

*Classes meet on Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m.: January 7, 14, 21, 28, 2014.*

This is a beginning course in plant anatomy and physiology that covers a wide range of topics. The relationship between structure and function of seeds, roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruits will be addressed. An understanding of how plants grow and respond to their environment is fundamental to the successful planting and cultivation of this enormous class of organisms. This class can be taken as a core requirement for the Horticulture Certificate Level I program or as an individual class. Discounted price for three Spring Level I courses: \$475

Instructor – Joyce Hemingson, Ph.D. earned her degree in Botany from the University of Connecticut on the pollination biology of *Clethra alnifolia* (Sweet Pepper-bush). She worked for many years as Director of Publications for White Flower Farm, located in Litchfield, CT.

## News

### First Detailed Map of Global Forest Change Created

Nov 14, 2013—A University of Maryland-led, multi-organizational team has created the first high-resolution global map of forest extent, loss and gain. This resource greatly improves the ability to understand human and naturally-induced forest changes and the local to global implications of these changes on environmental, economic and other natural and societal systems, members of the team say. In a new study, the team of 15 university, Google and government researchers reports a global loss of 2.3 million square kilometers (888,000 square miles) of forest between 2000 and 2012 and a gain of 800,000 square kilometers (309,000 square miles) of new forest. Read the full story at [phys.org](http://phys.org).





# News

## Volunteers Conducting Tree Survey in Providence

By Tatiana Pina

October 8, 2013—Providence — Cindy Kwolek and Amanda Reposa are used to the stares and people coming up to them and asking them what they are doing. For the past five weeks, the two women and nine others have been visiting properties all over the city to conduct inspections for a comprehensive urban forest survey of the city. The goal of the survey is to provide information, such as how many trees there are, their species, their health and where they are located. In another year, the city will be writing an urban forest master plan so the survey will help in the long-range planning for the planting of trees, their maintenance, stewardship and outreach, says Doug Still, the Providence city forester.

**"It will be eye opening when we find out what environmental services trees provide in terms of energy savings and how much carbon our trees take out of the air. It will provide baseline data for the future. It will do a lot to convince people how important our trees are,"** Still said. Read the full story at the [Providence Journal](#).

## Rising Concerns Over Tree Pests and Diseases

Nov. 15, 2013 — New research has found that the number of pests and disease outbreaks in trees and forests across the world has been increasing. The review "The consequences of Tree Pests and Diseases for Ecosystem Services" by scientists from the universities of Southampton, Cambridge, Oxford and St Andrews is published today (15 November) in the journal *Science*.

The research shows that the experience of widespread death of trees, similar to that seen from Dutch elm disease and with the arrival last year of the new fungal disease of ash -- *Chalara fraxinea* -- has not been unique to the UK. Furthermore, there is growing concern that aspects of globalization -- in particular, high volumes and new forms of trade -- may increase the risk of disease spreading and provide opportunities for genetic reassortment which can enhance pathogenicity (the ability of an organism to cause disease). Read the full story at [ScienceDaily](#).

## Location, Location, Location:

### How Nature Affects the Way We Make Decisions

Nov 07, 2013—Research published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* today has revealed that being exposed to natural environments could significantly impact the choices we make, encouraging us to make decisions which value our longer-term futures more. Read more at [phys.org](#).

## A Tree Grows in Springfield

In the aftermath of a tornado that ripped through Springfield, Mass., on June 1, 2011, one-third of the trees in the areas hardest hit had to be removed. Now, a team of **UMass researchers and students is aiding the "ReGreen Springfield" plan to replant 3,830 trees, studying each newly-planted tree to determine how well it is growing and which ones survive best in urban conditions.**

**"To gain the most benefits out of a reforestation, it is critical to know how quickly the tree establishes itself and whether it will survive," says Brian Kane '97G, '02PhD, arboriculture professor in the Department of Environmental Conservation.** After the study is completed in a few years, it will provide evidence of which **species best thrive. "The study has immediate value for practitioners. They'll know what's going to work in a given set of growing conditions, and the study will help other communities that suffer damage from extreme weather events," says Kane. The research will form the foundation for future urban forests and for avoiding wasting thousands of dollars in replanting trees with high mortality rates.** The trees planted in Springfield—from sugar maples to Japanese Zelkovas—are still too young for conclusions to be drawn about their health and sustainability. Read more at [UMass.edu](#).

## Forest Preservation Area Designated in Central, Western Mass.

By George Barnes

November 19, 2013—An area that encompasses 26 Central and Western Massachusetts communities has been designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service as suitable for forest preservation. About 421,000 acres in southern Central Massachusetts and nearby Western Massachusetts communities have been named by the forest service as the [Heritage Corridor Forest Legacy Area](#). What the designation means is that landowners within the area could be eligible for land protection money from the federal government. The Forest Legacy Program is a partnership between participating states and the Forest Service to identify and help protect environmentally important forests from conversion to non-forest uses. It is a voluntary federal program that helps pay for the acquisition of land or interest in land. Read the full story at the [Worcester Telegram & Gazette](#). (Thanks to Russ Cohen for this article.)

# On the Horizon

- Dec 1 **Deadline:** Nominations for Tree Warden of the Year due to the MTWFA, Nominate your Tree Warden [here](#)
- Dec 4-7 American Society of Consulting Arborists Annual Conference, Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT, [www.asca-consultants.org](http://www.asca-consultants.org)
- Dec 31 **Deadline:** Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, Tree Campus USA Applications
- Jan 14-15 Mass Tree Wardens 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, Sturbridge, MA, [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org)
- Jan 16 CTPA Winter Conference, Aqua Turf, Farmington, CT [www.ctpa.org](http://www.ctpa.org)
- Feb 5-7 New England Grows, Boston, MA, [www.newenglandgrows.org](http://www.newenglandgrows.org)
- Feb 27-Mar1 **COURSE FULL:** Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Course, NEC-ISA, Portland, ME <http://newenglandisa.org/>  
(See March 3-5, Portland, ME)
- Mar 3-5 Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Course, NEC-ISA Portland, ME [www.newenglandisa.org/](http://www.newenglandisa.org/)
- Mar 11 UMass Community Tree Conference, Amherst, MA
- April 1 **Deadline:** Intent to Apply: Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants
- April 1 Tree Planting Professional Development Series, MTWFA Sturbridge, MA [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org)

- April 4 MCA Exam, Massachusetts Arborist Association Wellesley, MA, [www.massarbor.org](http://www.massarbor.org)
- May 1 **Deadline for Applications:**  
[Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants](#)



Question about  
Tree City USA?  
Contact [Mollie Freilicher](#)  
413-577-2966

Nominate your Tree Warden for  
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Deval Patrick, Governor

Richard Sullivan, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

John P. Murray, Commissioner, Department of Conservation and Recreation

Peter Church, Director of Forest Stewardship, Department of Conservation and Recreation

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**If you have a topic you'd like to see covered or** want to submit an item to *The Citizen Forester* (article, photo, event listing, etc.), please contact [Mollie Freilicher](#) or click [here](#).

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